

# ECD *The Latest Newsletter*

## 5.3.2022

### **A Note from the Deputy Assistant Secretary**

Dear Colleagues:

This month we recognize a number of important commemorations including Mental Health Awareness Month, National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The last two years have been a challenging time for many children and families, and especially for communities of color. We know that strong, trusting relationships with adults and safe, stable family and community environments promote healthy child development. Early childhood systems and programs play vital roles in supporting the social-emotional and mental health of children and families. Here are just two of the many resources our colleagues in the Office of Child Care and the Office of Head Start have to offer throughout the year to promote the social emotional development and mental health of young children and families:

- The Office of Child Care has a collection of [resources](#) on topics such as infant and early childhood mental health consultation, strategies to support the social and emotional wellness of children, responding to adverse childhood experiences, connecting families with mental health resources, and training early educators.
- The Office of Head Start has compiled [tip sheets and other documents](#) relating to mental health and wellness, short- and long-term recovery, and self-care.

The Biden-Harris Administration has prioritized early education and [mental health](#). Our team at the Office of Early Childhood Development is excited to work at the intersections of these critical supports for families. Check out our event section below for more related happenings this May!

With appreciation,

*Katie*

Katie Hamm, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development

### **Assistant Secretary Contreras Visits Bilingual Child Care Program**

Last week, Assistant Secretary Contreras stopped by the Bay Area Hispano Institute for Advancement, Inc. (BAHIA) located in West Berkeley. At this visit, she was able to hear directly from BAHIA staff about the importance of the American Rescue Plan funds and child care subsidy dollars to maintain quality programming for young children during the pandemic. The visit was also a great opportunity for Assistant Secretary Contreras to recognize the benefits of bilingual and multi-cultural learning for children.



### **Families Can Now Use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Eligibility Determination for Head Start Enrollment**

It's now easier to apply for Head Start than ever! The Office of Head Start recently released an [information memorandum](#) that outlines the inclusion of SNAP benefits for Head Start eligibility determination. This will make it easier for eligible families to enroll in Head Start programs across the country!

This is a big win for families with young children and supports [President Biden's goal to transform the public's experience with government programs](#).



## **Time- Limited Opportunity for Public Service Loan Forgiveness**

[What Do Early Childhood Educators Need to Know About Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) is a two-pager that highlights the U.S. Department of Education's major changes to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program for a limited time, as a result of the COVID-19 national emergency. If you work for a qualified employer—including many Head Start, preschool and child care programs—you may now be eligible for federal student loan forgiveness for your important public service, even if you were not eligible before.

Some borrowers will need to consolidate their federal loans and/or submit a PSLF form by October 31, 2022 to take advantage of this opportunity. Check out the [recorded webinar](#) for more information.

## **ACF Announces Exciting New Tribal Early Learning Initiative Opportunity!**

ACF is excited to announce the launch of a new tribal early childhood program coordination effort, the Tribal Early Learning Initiative (TELI). Through nation-to-nation consultation, ACF has heard from tribal leaders over the past several years that tribal communities want resources and support for coordination and collaboration among their early childhood programs. TELI will support tribes in their efforts to improve program quality and child and family outcomes by using Tribal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) resources and other funding streams to implement their vision for a stronger, more seamless system of high-quality early childhood at the tribal community level to better serve young children and their families.

The TELI officially launched with a webinar, held on April 19<sup>th</sup>, during which ACF staff shared information about a recent Office of Child Care [Information Memorandum](#) on use of Tribal CCDF resources to support TELI activities, as well as upcoming opportunities for tribes to receive technical assistance in implementing their TELI projects. This will include the TELI Collaborative, a peer learning community to include up to 8 tribes that will receive supports from one another and ACF staff. A recording of the webinar will be available [here](#). More information about the TELI opportunities will be shared in the coming weeks and will be available [here](#).



## **Promoting Routine Immunizations and COVID-19 Vaccines**

According to [CDC](#), over the last two years many children have fallen behind on their [routine childhood immunizations](#). To smooth our recovery and re-building from the pandemic, now is the time to support parents and get children caught up on routine immunizations. [Well-child visits](#) to a health care provider are incredibly important for children and adolescents; in addition to routine vaccinations, these visits provide an opportunity to screen for developmental milestones, track growth and development and check on children's mental health. Immunizations, including the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) for those eligible, together with regular checkups keep the whole early childhood community safe. Encourage parents to schedule a visit for their children.

Other resources to promote COVID-19 vaccines for children are available [here](#).

## **New Funding Opportunities: Native Hawaiian Non-Profit Organization Child Care Grant and American Indian and Native Hawaiian Non-Profit Child Care Grant**

The Office of Child Care (OCC) is soliciting applications for two notices of funding opportunity (NOFO)—the Native Hawaiian Non-Profit Organization Child Care Grant (HHS-2022-ACF-OCC-YN-0090) and the American Indian and Native Hawaiian Non-Profit Organization Child Care Grant (HHS-2022-ACF-OCC-YN-0091). The purpose of these grants is to provide child care services to Native Hawaiian and/or American Indian youths who are not currently receiving child care services funded by other Child Care and Development Fund formula grants. OCC will award one \$1 million grant to a Native Hawaiian non-profit organization and one \$1 million grant to an American Indian and/or Native Hawaiian non-profit organization.

Eligible applicants may apply for funding under both NOFOs, but they will only receive an award under one. Applications for both NOFOs are due on June 24, 2022. More information can be found on this Grants.gov [webpage](#) (HHS-2022-ACF-OCC-YN-0090) and on this Grants.gov [webpage](#) (HHS-2022-ACF-OCC-YN-0091), respectively.

## **Upcoming Events – Join Us!**

May 4 at 3:00 PM EST: **Prioritizing Childhood Mental Health: Encouraging Use of Mental and Behavioral Health Benefits Covered Under Medicaid and CHIP** – This webinar, which is being held during Mental Health Awareness Month, is hosted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. It will feature new data on the impact of the public health emergency on youth mental health, strategies for improving access to and use of mental and behavioral health services, resources for suicide prevention, practices to support youth mental health, and

Campaign resources available on InsureKidsNow.gov for organizations to use in their outreach. Register [here](#).

May 5 at 1:00 PM EST: **National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day 2022: Peer Support for Youth and Families** – SAMHSA is hosting an event commemorating child and youth mental health and honoring youth and family peer support. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

May 6 at 4:00 PM EST: **Mental Health Awareness Month: Historical Trauma- Facebook Premiere Event** – The National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety will host a Facebook video event to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month. This event will be about 20 minutes and will feature a prerecorded video on the [Office of Head Start Facebook page](#). Moderators will be present to answer any questions in the chat. This conversation will raise awareness about historical trauma and mental health and reduce barriers of bias. Session one is on historical trauma, where we will discuss trauma-informed care and historical trauma and how these concepts relate to Head Start services. Click the [Facebook page link](#) at the time of the event to join.

May 11 at 1:00 PM EST: **Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month Event** – As we reflect upon and celebrate the remarkable contributions of the AANHPI community, there are many events happening at the Department of Health and Human Services. We are highlighting one here and hope you can join this unique conversation with the Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy. Join the event using this [link](#).

May 11 at 2:00 PM EST **Trauma-attuned Practices Showcase** – This webinar highlights Head Start and Early Head Start programs using innovative practices in the realm of trauma-informed care. Pilot programs offered by the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety and the Head Start Heals campaign will be shared. Emphasis is placed on principles of trauma-informed care and strategies to bring them to life in Head Start programming. This webinar is offered with simultaneous interpretation in Spanish. Register [here](#).

May 11 at 3:00 PM EST **Ask the Expert: Developmental Promotion, Surveillance, and Screening** –The Office of Child Care's National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance welcomes Dr. Liz Isakson, an American Academy of Pediatrics Health Professional, to discuss issues and to answer questions on developmental promotion, surveillance, and screening. Attendees can pose questions to Dr. Isakson, a pediatrician and public health practitioner with decades of experience and a passion for early childhood systems integration. The webinar will be moderated based on the questions submitted by registrants.

The target audience for this webinar includes state representatives, Head Start and center-based providers, home-based providers, child care consultants (i.e., health, infant/toddler, infant and early childhood mental health), and home visitors. Register [here](#)!

## Reports

### Latest Tribal Home Visiting Issue Brief Released!

The Tribal Home Visiting Program is pleased to release the Precious Moments: Tribal Home Visiting Programs Support Families During Pregnancy and Postpartum issue brief. The brief describes (1) how Tribal Home Visiting programs support AIAN families during pregnancy and postpartum, (2) how the care they provided transcends typical labor and delivery supports, and (3) how program leaders and home visitors are motivated to tailor perinatal care so that it is in harmony with what parents and caregivers desire and aligns with the cultural traditions of their community.

Many thanks to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Pueblo of San Felipe, Southcentral Foundation, Taos Pueblo, and the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, a former Tribal Home Visiting grantee.

- [View the Precious Moments Promotion Video here](#)
- [Read the Precious Moments PDF here](#)



## Workforce Resources

*In case you missed it, here are some resources we highlighted in our latest Workforce Wednesday Newsletter. To sign up to receive those updates, email us at [earlychildhooddevelopment@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:earlychildhooddevelopment@acf.hhs.gov).*

[Apprenticeships: An Alternative Workforce Development Strategy](#) is a webinar that offers two state models that support early educators as they earn a degree while working.



[EarlyEdU Alliance](#) is a higher education collaboration community for Head Start and other early childhood education (ECE) staff. Find out how ECE programs are working together to improve child outcomes by transforming early childhood teacher development.

[EarlyEdU Alliance Higher Education Learning Modules](#) can be used by trainers and instructors for professional development or higher education classes. When using the modules for professional development, trainers may also want to partner with their institutions of higher education to offer continuing education units (CEUs) for completion.

[Connecting Parents with Apprenticeship Programs](#) offers opportunities for families to earn pay while working on a credential. Watch this recorded webinar to learn how Head Start and Early Head Start programs can play a role in connecting families with such programs.



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